


## reviewers' corner

*Help for Your Fearful Dog*, Nicole Wilde (Phantom Publishing, 2006, 414 pages, softcover, \$24.95, [www.phantompub.com](http://www.phantompub.com))

**Reviewer:** Sarah Kalnajs

**Content:** 

**Presentation:** 

**Readability:** 

**Audience:** Anyone who owns a fearful dog or works with dogs in any type of professional setting.

*Help for Your Fearful Dog* is a book that thoroughly covers one of the most common sources of behavior problems in dogs, fear and its many manifestations. This is a large topic to tackle in one book, but Nicole Wilde has done just that, and with great success.

This book is as close to perfect as I've seen in quite some time. With a whopping but highly readable 414 pages that includes a very useful index, Nicole Wilde has given both dog owners and dog professionals a fantastic tool to both understand and work with fearful dogs.

Wilde's well laid out book covers all aspects of this problem, from its root causes to what it looks like - and in a clear and concise manner explains in detail what to do about it. If that weren't enough, the book also includes a section on complementary therapies that describes the many tools that are now available to help reduce fear, including items such as DAP and the Calming Cap.

Throughout the book, Wilde gives us easy-to-understand

examples and clear definitions, while maintaining a keen sense of humor that keeps the reader from getting overwhelmed. Additionally, each chapter includes a "Tail End Wrap-Up" reminding the reader of the key takeaway points.

The section on desensitization and counter-conditioning is a perfect example of how Wilde balances hard science and simplicity. Those who prefer their information couched in scientific jargon will perhaps find this book too "light," but this approach would have made this valuable material inaccessible to pet owners and other individuals who are new to the field of dog training and/or behavior.





One of the biggest pitfalls when writing a book intended for a wide audience is oversimplification, yet Wilde avoided this trap and has produced a book that is an excellent resource for the seasoned dog professional and average pet owner alike.

This book was a joy to read and is a must-have for the trainer's toolbox!

*Sarah Kalnajs, CPDT, CDBC, owner of Blue Dog Training & Behavior LLC, in Madison, WI, [www.bluedogtraining.com](http://www.bluedogtraining.com), has worked with numerous species and is a professional member of the ABMA, a faculty member at Cynology College, and a review board member for the Dog Trainer's Journal. She is an international speaker on dog behavior and training, including the specialty areas of shelter and rescue behavior evaluations. Sarah can be reached at [k9shrink@mac.com](mailto:k9shrink@mac.com).*

### Rating System

The APDT *Chronicle of the Dog's* 0-4 Paws Book & Video Rating:

 Great  
 Very Good  
 Good  
 Fair

**Content:** How well did the author cover the subject matter? Did the author present a fresh look at a topic or present new material? Was the content usable by the reader?

**Presentation:** Was the book visually appealing in its layout? Did the author use helpful photographs, charts, or illustrations?

**Readability:** Was the tone of the book appropriate? Was it well organized and edited for grammar, punctuation, and syntax?

*The Culture Clash, Second Edition*, Jean Donaldson (James & Kenneth Publishers, 2005, 202 pages, softcover, \$17.95)

**Reviewer:** Linda Laun

**Content:** 

**Presentation:** 

**Readability:** 

**Audience:** Dog professionals and serious pet owners who are truly interested in training.

*The Culture Clash* has long been the measuring stick for many of us in the dog training world. So it piqued my interest that after only nine years, Jean Donaldson felt the need to revise her book. When some authors of books written 35 years ago or more feel they are still relevant to dog training today. Personally, I agree more with Jean Donaldson. In the last few years, we have learned

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